

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-07 COME-00
STR-04 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
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-----040753Z 122014 /14

R 040345Z MAY 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7721
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR CH

SUBJ: PRC CROP CONDITIONS

REF: (A) PEKING 05686; (B) HONG KONG 4586

1. USLO REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDED CANTON EXPORT FAIR
APRIL 27 AND 28 AND RETURNED TO PEKING BY TRAIN
APRIL 28 TO 30 TO OBSERVE CROP CONDITIONS.

2. RICE OCCUPIES MOST OF FARMLAND IN CANTON AREA.
RICE CROP WELL GROWN AND STANDS GOOD. NO APPARENT
PROBLEM WITH DROUGHT. COMMUNE REPRESENTATIVE STATED
THAT COLD, DRY WINTER WEATHER HAD RESULTED IN LOWER
YIELDS OF RAPESEED, BUT HIGHER YIELDS OF WHEAT. HE
ALSO REMARKED THAT AREA HAD BEEN DRY, WATER LEVELS IN
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RESERVOIRS WERE LOW, AND WATER WAS BEING DIVERTED
FROM RIVERS.

3. FROM SOUTH OF CHUCHOU TO CHANGSHA, HUNAN PROVINCE,
LAND 85 TO 90 PERCENT PADDY FIELDS. WHEAT MOSTLY GOOD
WITH SOME MEDIUM TO POOR FIELDS IN THE UPLANDS. RAPE
ALMOST ALL HARVESTED.

4. FROM CHANGSHA NORTH TO YUEHYANG, HUNAN MOST OF LAND DEVOTED TO RICE WITH 50 TO 60 PERCENT OF PADDY LAND ALREADY TRANSPLANTED. HIGHER LANDS PLANTED TO WHEAT, BARLEY, RAPE AND TEA. MOST RAPE HARVESTED AND LAND BEING PREPARED FOR RICE. BARLEY RIPE AND WHEAT NEARING MATURITY. MOST FIELDS OF WHEAT AND BARLEY OF GOOD QUALITY BUT SOME UPLAND FIELDS WITH POOR STANDS AND SHORT HEADS.

5. NORTH OF YUEHYANG TO THE HUPEH BORDER, NARROW VALLEYS ALL DEVOTED TO PADDY OF WHICH 60 PERCENT TRANSPLANTED. UPLAND TERRACES PLANTED TO BROAD BEANS, RAPE, WHEAT, AND BARLEY. BARLEY RIPE, WHEAT ALL HEADED. CONDITION OF BOTH GENERALLY GOOD. MUCH OF RAPE ALREADY CUT BUT THAT STILL STANDING APPEARED ONLY AVERAGE CONDITION. PADDY FIELDS ALL LOOKED GOOD.

6. NORTH OF HUPEH BORDER NARROW VALLEYS LARGELY IN PADDY LAND, TWO-THIRDS TRANSPLANTED. WHEAT AND BARLEY IN UPLANDS APPEARED TO HAVE HAD ADEQUATE WATER. R RAPE CROP APPEARED BELOW NORMAL IN QUALITY.

7. ALMOST HALF OF LAND AREA DEVOTED TO WHEAT AND BARLEY IN AREA OF WUHAN. ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF PADDY LAND HAS BEEN TRANSPLANTED. RAPE MOSTLY HARVESTED AND LAND BEING PREPARED FOR RICE. WHEAT AND BARLEY APPEAR TO HAVE RECOVERED FROM DROUGHT CONDITIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTED MONTH AGO (REF A) . HARVEST SHOULD BE NEAR NORMAL, BUT STILL SOME POOR FIELDS NOTED.

8. NORTH OF WUHAN TOWARD THE HONAN BORDER, MOST SUITABLE LAND IN VALLEYS DEVOTED TO PADDY WHICH APPEARS IN GOOD CONDITION. MUCH OF THE WHEAT, BARLEY, AND RAPE GROWING ON TERRACES IS VERY GOOD. SOME SMALL GRAINS ON ROLLING LAND IS AVERAGE TO POOR. CONDITION OF WHEAT ON HILLSIDES AND ON SANDY SOILS HAS DETERIORATED SOME SINCE PREVIOUS REPORT (REF A). SOME SUCH FIELDS RATHER POOR.

9. ABOVE HUPEH-HONAN BORDER TO HSINYANG, LAND ABOUT HALF IN PADDY AND HALF IN WHEAT. MOST PADDY LAND NOT YET TRANSPLANTED. WHEAT CROP GENERALLY VERY GOOD, TALL, GREEN, UNIFORM AND WITH FULL HEADS. HOWEVER, WHEAT IN SOME HIGH TERRACED FIELDS AND ON HILLSIDES SHOWS EFFECTS OF INADEQUATE WATER.

10. WHEAT GENERALLY GOOD AROUND HSINYANG, HONAN AND TOWARD HUAI RIVER. RICE NOT YET TRANSPLANTED. CONDITION OF WHEAT CROP IN UPLANDS DECLINES AS ONE MOVES NORTH.

11. ABOVE THE HUAI RIVER TOWARD CHUNMATEIN AND LOHO, CONDITION OF WHEAT CROP WAS GENERALLY AVERAGE TO POOR. MOST OF LAND IN AREA IS PLANTED TO WHEAT. THERE WERE A FEW GOOD FIELDS WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE HAD ADEQUATE IRRIGATION, BUT MOST FIELDS LACKED UNIFORMITY IN STAND, HEIGHT, AND DEVELOPMENT. SOME FIELDS WERE ONLY ONE-THIRD HEADED.

12. RAIN FELL DURING MOST OF THE DAY OF APRIL 29, AND WHOLE AREA FROM HENGYANG, HUNAN TO CHUMATEIN, HONAN APPEARED TO HAVE HAD MUCH RECENT RAIN.

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13. IN THE EARLY MORNING LIGHT OF APRIL 30 IN AREA SOUTH OF PEKING, WHEAT WAS OBSERVED TO BE FOUR TO SIX INCHES TALL AND OF GENERALLY DARK GREEN COLOR. MANY FIELDS, HOWEVER, EXHIBITED UNEVEN GROWTH, THIN STAND AND UNEVEN STAND. SOME VERY POOR FIELDS BEING IRRIGATED.

14. STRONG SHOWERS FELL IN PEKING AREA ON APRIL 23, 14, AND 30.
GATES

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